



**March 31, 2020**

## **Indiana Special Death Benefit Increases for Line of Duty Deaths**

Governor Eric Holcomb has signed Public Law 99 granting Hoosier public safety officers who die in the line of duty after June 30, 2020 an increase in the Special Death Benefit from \$150,000 to \$225,000.

House Bill 1063, introduced during the Second Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly was authored by Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R, Noblesville) and co-authored by Rep. Heath VanNatter (R, Frankfort), Rep. Earl Harris (D, East Chicago) and Rep. Randall Frye (R, Greensburg).

Sponsors were added to include Sen. Blake Doriot (R, New Paris), Sen. Philip Boots (R, Crawfordsville), Sen. Victoria Spartz (R, Noblesville), Sen. Chris Garten (R, Scottsburg), Sen. J.D. Ford (D, Indianapolis), Sen. David Niezgodski (D, South Bend), Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D, East Chicago), Sen. James Buck (R, Kokomo), Sen. Jon Ford (R, Terre Haute) and Sen. Jack Sandlin (R, Indianapolis).

House Enrolled Act 1063 provides for an increase in the Special Death Benefit for:

- certain public safety officers;
- certain motor carrier inspectors;
- certain special police employees;
- members of the 1925 Police Pension Fund;
- members of the 1937 Firefighters' Pension Fund;
- members of the 1953 Police Pension Fund (Indianapolis); and
- members of the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund

After passing both the House and Senate unanimously, and being signed by Governor Holcomb, the law will become effective on July 1.

Historically, the Special Death Benefit was last increased 22 years ago from \$75,000 to its current \$150,000 for line of duty deaths occurring after January 1, 1998. The Special Death Benefit is in addition to any other eligible benefits including, but not limited to, the state death benefit of \$12,000 and the Federal Public Safety Officers' Benefit, which is currently \$365,670.

For additional resources and benefits available to surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, please read more at <https://www.inlem.org/survivor-benefits/>.

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